

The Claims

Claims 1-13 (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A multi-channel sound reproduction system for testing hearing and hearing aids comprising:

at least one audio source;

a listening position at which a test subject is placed;

a plurality of loudspeakers located at approximately ear level of a test subject in the listening position, the plurality of loudspeakers for receiving a plurality of audio signals from the audio source;

a first further loudspeaker located at approximately ear level and at front and center of a test subject in the listening position, the first further loudspeaker for receiving a further audio signal from the audio source;

a second further loudspeaker located at an overhead center position directly above the test subject in the listening position; and

the at least one audio source transmitting a time-offset or delayed sum of at least a portion of the plurality of audio signals and the further audio signal to the second further loudspeaker.

15. (Original) The multi-channel sound reproduction system of claim 14 wherein the sum comprises an equal contribution from each of the plurality of audio signals and the further audio signal.

16. (Original) The multi-channel sound reproduction system of claim 14 wherein the at least one audio source comprises a 5.1-channel storage medium.

17. (Original) The multi-channel sound reproduction system of claim 14 wherein the plurality of loudspeakers comprises four loudspeakers located at each of four corners relative to the listening position.

18. (Original) The multi-channel sound reproduction system of claim 14 further comprising a subwoofer located proximate the listening position.

19. (Original) The multi-channel sound reproduction system of claim 18 wherein the at least one audio source transmits a low-pass filtered sum of at least a portion of the plurality of audio signals and the further audio signal to the subwoofer.

20. (Original) The multichannel sound reproduction system of claim 14 wherein the plurality of audio signals comprises competing signals.

Claims 21-25 (Canceled)

26. (New) The multi-channel sound reproduction system of claim 14, further comprising an audio signal processing system for receiving a plurality of audio signals from the audio source and for generating therefrom a plurality of processed audio signals.

27. (New) The multi-channel sound reproduction system of claim 26, wherein the audio signal processing system comprises a clinical audiometer.

28. (New) The multi-channel sound reproduction system of claim 14 wherein the plurality of loudspeakers are placed and oriented arbitrarily about the listening position.

29. (New) The multi-channel sound reproduction system of claim 28 wherein placed and oriented arbitrarily about the listening position comprises a configuration in which the loudspeakers face different directions relative to each other and relative to the listening position.

30. (New) The multi-channel sound reproduction system of claim 26 wherein one of the plurality of processed audio signals represents a target signal and a remainder of the plurality of processed audio signals comprise multiple interfering noise signals.

31. (New) The multi-channel sound reproduction system of claim 26 wherein the audio signal processing system comprises level-dependent attenuators.

32. (New) The multi-channel sound reproduction system of claim 26 wherein all but one of the plurality of processed audio signals comprises discrete adjusted versions of the plurality of audio signals and wherein the one of the plurality of processed audio signals comprises a combination of the plurality of audio signals.

33. (New) The multi-channel sound reproduction system of claim 32 wherein one of the plurality of loudspeakers comprises a subwoofer, and wherein the one of the plurality of processed audio signals is received by the subwoofer.

34. (New) The multi-channel sound reproduction system of claim 32 wherein the combination of the plurality of audio signals is comprised of an equal proportion of the plurality of audio signals.

35. (New) The multi-channel sound reproduction system of claim 14 wherein the plurality of loudspeakers are placed at locations that are approximately equidistant from a center of the listening position, and wherein the plurality of loudspeakers are facing the center of the listening position.

36. (New) The multi-channel sound reproduction system of claim 14 wherein at least two of the plurality of loudspeakers generate sound that appears to, but does not, emanate from another of the plurality of loudspeakers.

37. (New) The multi-channel sound reproduction system of claim 14 further comprising a plurality of audio power amplifiers for receiving the plurality of processed signals and for amplifying the plurality of processed audio signals.